

FISCAL NOTE

SB 303 - HB 893

March 11, 2003

SUMMARY OF BILL:

- Creates *The State Park Funding Act of 2003*, and establishes a dedicated fund, the "state park fund" for the division of parks in the Department of Environment and Conservation. All funds sent to the State Treasurer from the operation of state park facilities from the payment of fees, fines, penalties, and forfeitures arising from the laws of this state pertaining to state parks shall be placed in this fund.
- Authorizes the Division of Parks to collect a user fee beginning on January 1, 2004, in all state parks with the exception of the Tennessee Bicentennial Mall, and any other state park certified by the Commissioner of Environment and Conservation not to be suitable for the collection of a fee. Each park would have a collection point for the fee. Upon payment, each motor vehicle operator would be issued a dated permit. Allows the Commissioner to set the fees based on an amount deemed necessary to make state parks self-sufficient.
- Directs the Department of Safety to include on all certificates of registration forms and registration renewal forms, a designation whereby owners may elect to purchase an annual parking permit. The permit may be purchased by checking the appropriate box and by remitting the \$10 annual fee. All proceeds shall be remitted to the state park fund.
- States the legislative intent is that all appropriations go to the state park fund and the division of parks become financially self-sufficient. Requires an annual state park fund report to the General Assembly by March 1, 2004 and every March thereafter.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$566,950 One-Time

\$25,041 Recurring

Increase State Revenues - Exceeds \$1,000,000/State Park Fund

Other Fiscal Impact - All interest earnings for the state park fund remain with that fund and any funds remaining at the end of the year, from any source, shall not revert to the general fund, but would remain in the state park fund.

Estimate assumes:

- An increase in state revenues from additional fees. The amount will depend on the fee established by the department and the impact such fee has on the number of visitors to state parks.
- A one time increase in state expenditures to the Department of Safety of \$566,950 for revising forms and computer system modification costs and a recurring cost of \$25,041 associated with hiring one employee to oversee and process collections.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James A. Davenport". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being the most prominent.

James A. Davenport, Executive Director